

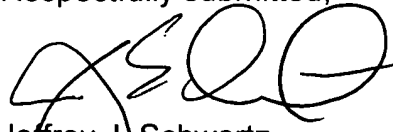
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-10, 13, 15-17, and 20 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickson (US 2004/0216595) in view of Park (US 5,635,288). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickson (US 2004/0216595) and Park (US 5,635,288) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Klintworth et al. (US 2003/0139108).

Base Claims 1 and 13 are amended herein to further define over the art cited. Specifically, the amended claims recited a hard armor composite which incorporates a rigid non-ceramic, *non-perforated* facing. The Dickson application describes a hard armor composite which incorporates a *perforated facing*—the advantages of which are discussed repeatedly in Dickson (See, e.g., ¶0036). As such, there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation in the art cited to form an armor composite, as now claimed.

For all these reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully requested at an early date. If the Examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey J. Schwartz  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 37,532

SERIAL NO.: 10/730,805  
APPLICANT: Park, Andrew D.  
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Jeffrey J. Schwartz  
Schwartz Law Firm, P.C.  
SouthPark Towers  
6100 Fairview Road, Suite 1135  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210  
Tel: 704-552-1889  
Fax: 704-552-1866  
Email: [jjis@schwartz-iplaw.com](mailto:jjis@schwartz-iplaw.com)